

where R_6 is a methyl group, R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , R_{10} and R_{12} are a hydrogen atom at the same time and R_{11} is a benzyl group or a p-hydroxy benzyl group, at the same time; and

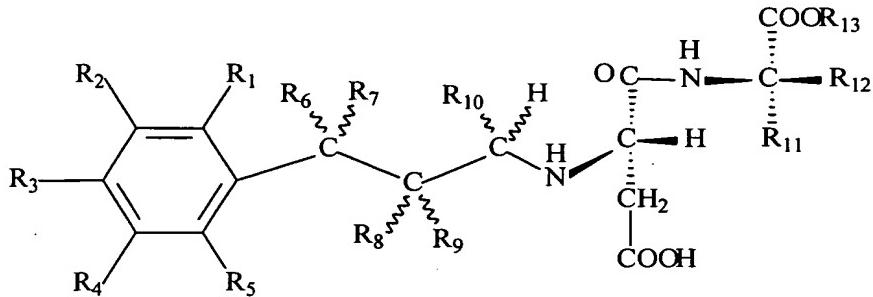
where R_2 or R_4 is a methoxy group, R_3 is a hydroxyl group, R_{10} is a methyl group, R_1 , R_4 or R_2 , R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 and R_9 are hydrogen atoms at the same time, and R_{11} is a benzyl group or a p-hydroxy benzyl group.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy to read as follows:

1. (Amended) An N-alkylaspartyl dipeptide ester compound, and salts thereof,

represented by the formula (1):



wherein R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , R_4 and R_5 are independent from each other, selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms and a hydroxy alkyloxy group having two or three carbon atoms, and R_1 and R_2 , or R_2 and R_3 , optionally, form a methylene dioxy group, and R_4 and R_5 , and R_1 or R_3 which do not form the methylene dioxy group are defined

as above;

R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ are independent from each other, a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and optionally, two of R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ may combine to form an alkylene group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms, and R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ which do not form the alkylene group with 1 to 5 carbon atoms are defined as above;

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cont'd

R₁₁ is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a benzyl group, a p-hydroxy benzyl group, a cyclohexyl methyl group, a phenyl group, a cyclohexyl group, a phenyl ethyl group and a cyclohexyl ethyl group;

R₁₂ is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom and an alkyl group with 1 to 3 carbon atoms; and

R₁₃ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups with 1 to 4 carbon atoms; with the proviso that the following are excluded:

where R₆, R₇, R₈, R₉ and R₁₀ are hydrogen atoms at the same time,

where R₆ is a methyl group, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₂ are a hydrogen atom at the same time and R₁₁ is a benzyl group or a p-hydroxy benzyl group, at the same time; and

where R₂ or R₄ is a methoxy group, R₃ is a hydroxyl group, R₁₀ is a methyl group, R₁, R₄ or R₂, R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈ and R₉ are hydrogen atoms at the same time, and R₁₁ is a benzyl group or a p-hydroxy benzyl group.

2. (Amended) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R₃ is a methoxy group, R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₂ are hydrogen atoms, R₆ and R₁₃ are methyl groups and R₁₁ is a benzyl group.

A3

4. (Amended) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R₂ is a methoxy group, R₃ is a hydroxyl group, R₁, R₄, R₅, R₇, R₈, R₉, R₁₀ and R₁₂ are hydrogen atoms, R₆ and R₁₃ are